

Parent's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
regarding Washington State's implementation of
No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

1) I received a letter that my child's school has not met 'adequate yearly progress'. What does this mean?

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires that all schools make "adequate yearly progress" or AYP in the areas of reading and math. For schools that meet certain poverty requirements and receive Title 1 funding to help high-risk and low-achieving students, there are consequences for not meeting local and state academic standards for two years in a row.

If the school your student is currently enrolled in did not make AYP in 2010-11 and in 2013-14, the school was required to notify parents two weeks before the start of the 2014-2015 school year about their right to receive Supplemental Education Services (SES) or to transfer to another school that has made AYP (Public School Choice).

2) How does the federal government decide which schools did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP)?

Students take statewide examinations and individual student scores for reading and math are tracked by school. AYP is calculated based on these scores along with the performance of individual subgroups of students, the number of students participating in the assessments, and any decline in unexcused absences and high school graduation rates. The federal government looks at the performance of students in particular who are: 1) economically disadvantaged, 2) students with disabilities, 3) English language learners, and 4) racially and ethnically diverse. All students, including students in these subgroups, were required to be performing at 100% proficiency by the 2013-2014 school year. The majority of Washington schools did not meet this requirement (less than 3%).

3) If I received a letter, does this mean that my child's school is failing?

It means your child's school receives Title 1 funding and that every student at that school was not performing at 100% proficiency by the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Because Washington state no longer has a federal "waiver" from AYP standards, this is the first school year that many schools across the state will have to offer Supplemental Education Services or parent choice to transfer to a school within their district that has met AYP standards.

4) What are Supplemental Education Services (SES)?

SES are free extra academic supports and help, such as tutoring or instruction in the areas of reading, language arts (including writing) and/or math. This extra help can be provided before or after school hours, on weekends, or in the summer. SES services are not allowed to be provided during the regular school day.

5) Do I get to choose who provides SES to my child?

Yes, there is an approved list of providers across the state that must be made easily available to parents.

The link to the list of approved providers can be found here: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Title/SES/default.aspx>

The school must let parents/guardians choose the provider that the parents/guardians feel best meet the educational needs of their child from this list. Providers of SES may include nonprofit organizations, local education agencies, for-profit agencies, religious organizations, public schools, public charter schools, or private schools. This summer, OSPI worked to approve over 114 providers across the state who are eligible providers of SES. OSPI must maintain an updated list of providers and encourage provider applications. Some of the approved providers include local school districts, ESDs, private tutoring agencies and private schools. The state must ensure that parents have as many choices as possible.

6) What SES services will my child receive?

Once you select a provider, there will be a meeting between you, a school representative, and your child's provider to agree on goals in the areas of math, reading, and/or language arts (may include writing). *If you need an interpreter to participate in the development of your child's Student Learning Plan, you should request one.*

The number of hours of extra tutoring or instruction that your child receives will be based on your school's demographic information (or SES per-pupil allocation). In most cases, students will receive about 10-15 hours of extra tutoring or supplemental academic enrichment services during the school year and those services will occur within a very specific period of time.

If you want to see what your school district's per-pupil allocation is, it can be found at:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/Title/pubdocs/SESCalculations2014-15.pdf>

7) When will SES services begin and how long will they last?

There will be two limited enrollment periods for SES during the school year determined by your district. Parents must fill out a written application form and turn it in before the deadline. **Notification and instructions for this application must be made available in a language understood by the parent.** SES services must begin within 4 weeks after a provider contract is completed for an individual student. A timeline for the provision of services must be included in your child's Student Learning Plan.

8) Are SES providers highly qualified teachers?

There is no requirement that SES providers hire highly qualified teachers. SES providers must have a demonstrated method of effectiveness in increasing student achievement. They must be capable of delivering instruction aligned with state content standards and consistent with the school district curriculum.

The SES provider must be financially sound and employees must pass criminal background checks (by the Washington State Patrol and FBI). SES providers must protect the student's privacy and adhere to rules of confidentiality. SES providers must follow all health, safety and civil rights law that are applicable. Services must be secular, neutral, and non-ideological.

9) Where will SES services take place?

It depends on the provider that you select. Some providers will offer services at your child's school, in your home, or at the provider's business location. Transportation is not part of SES services, so if you select a provider that your child will need transportation to access, you are responsible for transportation.

10) Do I get a choice of whether SES occurs before or after school, on weekends, or during the summer?

Each provider will negotiate a contract that determines when services will be available and the location of services offered by that provider. It is important to understand what services the provider can offer and where they will be located before you make a selection. SES services must occur outside of the regular school day. Parents and providers can work together to determine a schedule that meets the student and family's needs.

11) Should my student demonstrate progress as a result of SES?

The specific achievement goals described in your child's Student Learning Plan must be developed with you and progress must be monitored. Pre/post testing is required and must also be reported to you. A timetable for reaching the student's goals must also be developed. OSPI must monitor the quality and effectiveness of SES providers and withdraw approval from providers that fail for two consecutive years to contribute to increasing the academic proficiency of students served by the provider.

12) As a parent, what if I am dissatisfied with my child's SES provider after I begin services? Can I change providers?

Yes, a parent can change providers but only for the remaining instructional time that has been designated in the Student Learning Plan. A parent should work with their school representative to change from one provider to another.

13) What if my child becomes ill or cannot attend all of their SES instruction. Can instructional time be "made up"?

Yes, SES time can be made up and should be arranged individually with the SES provider. SES providers cannot be paid for time that the student does not attend.

14) Will all students who are eligible for SES services be provided services?

Schools must set aside 5% of their Title 1 funds for SES services and determine which students should receive services if not all students can be served. Providers are paid between \$40-\$60 per hour and a per-student calculated allotment will be determined based on a school's eligible-student demographic information. Students who are low-income and who are the lowest-achieving must be given the highest priority. It is anticipated that some eligible students will not elect to receive SES services and some students will not be served if there are a large number high-priority students in your school. If a school district believes it will run out of the 20% total set-aside under Title 1, the district may choose to provide SES just to students who are low-income and low-achieving.

15) Can a child with an IEP or a 504 Plan also receive SES services?

Yes, your child can receive educational services through an IEP or a 504 Plan during the school day and also receive SES services outside of regular school hours. An SES plan may contain similar goals to your child's IEP, but will only be focused on math, reading or language arts (including writing). A Student Learning Plan does not replace the IEP or 504 Plan and is not designed to address all of the learning needs a student with a disability may have.

16) What if my child with a disability requires special accommodations to access their SES instruction, such as a sign language interpreter or a positive behavior support plan?

SES providers are required to comply with all applicable civil rights laws and may not discriminate on the basis of disability. Access to SES services must include consideration of a student's disability and their individual needs if they are a child with a disability. It will be important for you to carefully select an SES provider that will be able to meet your child's instructional needs in math, reading or language arts (including writing).

17) What if I would rather transfer my child to another school within my district that has met AYP?

You can choose to transfer your child to another school within the district that has met AYP, if one is available, instead of receiving tutoring or extra help through SES at your child's assigned school. The letter that you received should have instructions for how you can select another school in your district.

18) Will transportation be provided by the district to the school I choose that has met AYP?

Yes, transportation services will be offered from your assigned school to the 'choice' school. Whether your students remains eligible to continue at a 'choice' school from year to year will be determined each August after AYP data is collected by the state and district. If you transfer and your child's assigned school meets AYP requirements in subsequent years, your child may continue to attend the 'choice' school, but transportation becomes the responsibility of the parent.

19) Can I request that my child attend a school that meets AYP standards in another school district?

Yes, but there is no requirement that a school outside of your district must accept your student.

20) What if MY child isn't failing, but attends a school that has not met AYP. Can I still ask for SES services or ask to transfer my child to another school?

If you were notified that your child attends a school that did not make AYP, then you have the right to request your child either receive SES services or transfer to another school that has met AYP, if one is available. SES services will be provided to the highest priority students first.

21) Can I request that my child transfer to another school AND receive tutoring?

No, you must choose between SES services at your assigned school or choose to transfer to a school within your district that has met AYP, if one is available. If you transfer schools, your child will not receive SES services.

22) What if my district doesn't have a school that has met AYP that I can "choice" into?

If no schools are available in your district that have met AYP, then your child would remain at their assigned school and receive SES. The school district is required to contact surrounding districts to determine if those districts would accept students. The letter you receive must inform parents if there are no schools available within the district and explain whether there are other options in a nearby district.

23) What if my child has a disability, receives services through an IEP or 504 Plan, and attends a school that has not met AYP? Will I be limited in my choice transfer options?

Your child should be allowed to transfer schools regardless of whether they have a disability. Public schools are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of disability.

24) Will a school that has met AYP have to develop a program so that my child with a disability can attend?

Every effort should be made to provide the services in your child's IEP if you choose to transfer your child to a school that has met AYP.

25) What if the district/school refuses any of my requests? Is there an appeal process? How does it work?

There is a Citizen Complaint process specific to federal programs, including implementation of No Child Left Behind and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Instructions for how to file a Citizen Complaint can be found here: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Title/CitizenComplaint.aspx> Directions for this process can also be found on the OSPI website in 4 different languages currently. If you need instructions in another language, please contact OSPI for further information and request information in the language you understand.

26) Where can I find more information out about my school or my district related to No Child Left Behind and AYP status?

Every school district is required to make publicly available its AYP information for each school in the district. In most cases, you will be able to look at your school district website and find individual school information related to AYP. If you would like further information, you can visit the OSPI website found here: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Title/default.aspx>

If your school is in AYP status two years in a row, your district is required to work within the school community, including with parents, to identify ways to improve instructional outcomes for students and meet AYP requirements.

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For further information or assistance, contact the Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) at 1-866-297-2597 or email at OEOinfo@gov.wa.gov. OEO's website can be found at www.governor.wa.gov/oeo